

INTRODUCTION

Wetland conditions and waterfowl populations have gone from record low to record high levels during the last two decades. In recent years, hunting opportunity and harvest have “raised the bar” of hunter expectations. Following is a summary of last year’s waterfowl season and the outlook for 2009. The report is divided into 6 primary sections:

- 1) a review of the 2008-09 hunting season,
- 2) the status of duck habitat and populations in 2009,
- 3) the status of goose populations and production in 2009,
- 4) issues affecting hunting regulations in 2009-10,
- 5) factors considered when recommending hunting seasons for Missouri, and
- 6) the outlook for the 2009-10 season.

A more complete summary of waterfowl status is available at:

<http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/reports/reports.html>

The Missouri waterfowl status report is available on the Missouri Department of Conservation website at:

<http://www.mdc.mo.gov/hunt/wtrfowl>

Throughout the fall / winter this website provides up-to-date migration and hunting status in Missouri as well as other waterfowl hunting formation.

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